filter element (112a; 402) having tribologically different fibers (138, 140; 438, 440) providing a triboelectric effect.

9. A multi-stage filter (110a, Figs. 14-17; 402, Figs. 33-35) comprising an upstream prefilter element (80; 414) and a downstream main filter element (112a; 402), one of said elements including nanofibers (142; 410).

27. A direct flow filter (400, Figs. 33-35) comprising a filter element (402) having nanofibers (410) comprising a pleated filter element (402) pleated along a plurality of bend lines (246, 248), said bend lines extending axially, said filter element (402) having a plurality of wall segments (250) extending in serpentine manner between said bend lines (246, 248), said wall segments (250) extending axially between upstream ends (252) and downstream ends (254), said wall segments (250) defining axial flow channels (255) therebetween, said upstream ends (252) of said wall segments (250) being alternately sealed to each other (256) to define a first set of flow channels (258) having open upstream ends (260), and a second set of flow channels (262) interdigitated with said first set of flow channels (258) and having closed upstream ends (264), said downstream ends (254) of said wall segments (250) being alternately sealed to each other (266) such that said first set of flow channels (258) have closed downstream ends (268), and said second set of flow channels (262) have open downstream ends (270), such that fluid to be filtered flows substantially directly axially through said filter element (402), through said open upstream ends (260) of said first set of flow channels (258) then through said wall segments (250) then through said open downstream ends (270) of said second set of flow channels (262), said pleated filter element (402) having said nanofibers (410).

Respectfully submitted,

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